Instruction already exist against carriage of inflammable material in passen-ger carrying trains and there have been reiterated.

A special drive has also been launched to educate the travelling public about the dangers of carrying inflammable/ dangerous goods by passenger carrying trains.

रेल दुर्घटनाओं के पीड़ितों के लिए मुआवजे की राशि में वृद्धि

616. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार में पटना के निकट मोकामा पैसेंजर रेलगाड़ी दुर्घटना में उन व्यक्तियों की संख्या कितनी है जिनकी पहचान हो चुकी है और उनकी संख्या कितनी है जिनकी पहचान नहीं हो सकी है ;

(ख) मृतक व्यक्तियों के परिवार वालों अथवा उनके संबंधियों को सहायता के रूप में कितनी धनराशि दी गई है ; और

(ग) सरकार ने बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री द्वारा की गई उस मांग के संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की है' जिसमें इस दुर्घटना में मरे व्यक्तियों में से प्रत्येक मृत व्यक्ति के आश्रितों अथवा परिवार को दो लाख रुपये का मुआवजा देने के लिये कहा गया है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री अजय सिंह) : (क) राजकीय रेलवे पुलिस, बिहार द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार पटना के निकट 16-4-90 को 383 अप मोकामा-दानापुर पैसेंजर गाड़ी की आग दुर्घटना में मारे गये कुल 75 व्यक्तियों में से 60 व्यक्तियों के शवों की शिनाख्त हो गई थी । शेष 15 शवों की शिनाख्त नहीं हो सकी थी ।

(ख) मृतकों के आश्रितों को मृत्यु के प्रत्येक मामले में 10,000 रुपये की अनुग्रह सहायता अनुमेय है । पहचाने गये 47 मामलों में 4,70,000 रुपये की राशि का भुगतान किया जा चुका है ।

(ग) नियमानुसार मृतकों के आश्रितों को मृत्यु के प्रत्येक मामले में एक लाख रुपये का मुआवजा अनुमेय है । इसके अलावा, इस दुर्घटना में मारे गये व्यक्तियों के आश्रितों को अनुग्रह के रूप में उतनी ही राशि का भुगतान करने का विनिश्चय किया गया है ।

Loss to NCCF on supply of controlled cloth to Sikkim

617. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1350 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1990 and state;

(a) whether the NCCF have now awarded a Minor Penalty' with holding/ two (2) increments of the Asstt. Manager (Shri N. C. Jain) on 29th December, 1989 i.e. after four years of the irregularity committed;

(b) the reason for taking lenient view for black-marketing the essential commodity of Controlled Cloth;

(c) whether Government have received any suggestion from any Member of Parliament to review this decision, if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) the reasons for not taking any action under Essential Commodities Act for violation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(to) The case was investigated by the CBI which did not find involvement of any officer of NCCF in the irregularities. Even then, the NCCF had imposed imnor penalty by withholding two Annual increments without cummulative effect on the Asstt. Manager concerned, in December, 1989 for some procedural lapses, after obtaining the advice of CVC. As such, no lenient view was taken.

(c) Yes, Sir. The case was reviewed at Government level and it was considered that there was no scope for taking farther action against the Asstt. Mana- ger.

(d) Does not arise in view of the replies to parts (b) & (c) above.

Fire in Mokameh-Arrah Shuttle Train in Bihar

618. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 383 Up Mokameh-Arrah Shuttle passenger train caught fire on the 16th April, 1990, in Bihar due to leakage in a gas cylinder;

(b) if so, how the gas cylinder was permitted to be carried in the train;

(c) the number of persons burnt alive and injured in this fire in the said train;

(d) what steps are being taken to avoid such accidents in future; and

(e) whether Government would take effective steps to prevent carrying of hazardous materials in passenger trains;

(f) whether Government have set up an enquiry committee to probe the circumstances of the fire;

(g) if so, by when the said committee would submit its report to Government;

(h) the details of relief and compensation paid to the victims of accidents; and

(i) the steps Government have taken to provide safe journey to commuters throughout the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The accident is being inquired into by ths Commissioners of Railway Safety.

(c) 74 persons lost their lives in this accident and 50 sustained injuries including 18 grievous.

(d) An all round drive has been launched to prevent carriage of inflammable or explosive materials in passenger carrying trains by deploying officers and ins-pectors of different disciplines.

At major Railway stations, the travelling public is being advised, through public Address System, against hazards of carrying inflammable and explosive articles in passenger carrying trains.

Publicity campaign is also organised through Press, Rario, TV and Cinema slides, etc.

Surprise checks by railway officials in coordination with the GRP and RPF are also being conducted to detect explosive materials in passenger carrying trains.

(e) Instructions already exist against the carrying of inflammable material in passenger carrying trains and these have been reiterated for strict observance.

(f) Commissioner of Railway Safety is holding statutory inquiry into this accident.

Commissioner of Railway Safety is independent of the Ministry of Railways and there is no time frame laid down for submission of his report.

(h) No compensation has been paid yet. Exgratia payment @ Rs. 10,000/-each, however, has been made in res-pect of 17 dead persons totalling Rs. 1,70,000|-. Rs. 2,000|- each was also paid to 18 grievously injured persons totalling Rs. 36,000/- and Rs. 500|- each to 31 persons who received simple injuries totalling Rs. 15,500/-.

(i) All out efforts are being made to ensure safe rail travel and to prevent accidents. Apart from the policy of speedy and deterrent punishment to